

Listing of claims:

Please cancel claim 17 without prejudice to the subject matter therein and update the currently amended claims to read as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of coating a medical implant comprising:

placing a medical implant into a rotatable drum;
tumbling the medical implant ~~in~~ by rotating the drum for a predetermined amount of time; and
interfacing a therapeutic with the tumbling medical implant.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising: drying the therapeutic on the medical implant.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein drying the therapeutic on the medical implant includes spraying an inert gas into the drum.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising: suspending the medical implants above an internal surface of the drum.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method for applying a coating to a medical implant comprising:

providing a pan coater, the pan coater including a drum having ~~at least a first opening a~~ bottom and a wall;

placing a medical implant in the drum of the pan coater;
rotating the drum about an axis, to tumble the medical implant, the drum containing a plurality of orifices in the wall;

spraying a therapeutic into the drum to coat the medical implant; and
removing the medical implant from the drum.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 5, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

collecting therapeutic in a therapeutic recovery reservoir, fluidly attached to the drum is ~~rotatable about its longitudinal axis.~~

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~The A method of claim 5, further~~ for applying a coating to a medical implant comprising:

providing a pan coater, the pan coater including a drum having at least a first opening a bottom and a wall;

placing a medical implant in the drum of the pan coater;

rotating the drum about an axis, to tumble the medical implant, the drum containing a plurality of orifices in the wall;

spraying a therapeutic into the drum to coat the medical implant;

removing the medical implant from the drum;

forcing a compressible fluid from a compressible fluid source into the drum;

re-circulating the compressible fluid in the drum; and

waiting until the therapeutic on the medical implant is dry before removing the medical implant from the drum.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 7 5, wherein spraying the therapeutic into the drum is repeated at least once.

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~The A method of claim 7, further~~ for applying a coating to a medical implant comprising:

providing a pan coater, the pan coater including a drum having at least a first opening a bottom and a wall;

placing a medical implant in the drum of the pan coater;

rotating the drum about an axis, to tumble the medical implant, the drum containing a plurality of orifices in the wall;

spraying a therapeutic into the drum to coat the medical implant;

removing the medical implant from the drum;

forcing a compressible fluid from a compressible fluid source into the drum;

re-circulating the compressible fluid in the drum;

waiting until the therapeutic on the medical implant is dry before removing the medical implant from the drum; and

heating the compressible fluid in the compressible fluid source prior to forcing the compressible fluid into the drum.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein the compressible fluid in the compressible fluid source is heated to a temperature in the range of 20 to 70 degrees centigrade.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein the compressible fluid in the compressible fluid source is heated to a temperature associated with a working temperature of the therapeutic.

Claim 12 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A method of claim 5, further for applying a coating to a medical implant comprising:

providing a pan coater, the pan coater including a drum having at least a first opening a bottom and a wall;

placing a medical implant in the drum of the pan coater;

rotating the drum about an axis, to tumble the medical implant, the drum containing a plurality of orifices in the wall;

spraying a therapeutic into the drum to coat the medical implant;

drawing a compressible fluid into the drum; and

removing the medical implant from the drum.

Claim 13 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A method of claim 5, further for applying a coating to a medical implant comprising:

providing a pan coater, the pan coater including a drum having at least a first opening a bottom and a wall;

placing a medical implant in the drum of the pan coater;

rotating the drum about an axis, to tumble the medical implant, the drum containing a plurality of orifices in the wall;

spraying a therapeutic into the drum to coat the medical implant;

heating the rotatable drum after spraying the therapeutic into the drum; and

removing the medical implant from the drum.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 5, wherein the pan coater is provided with a compressible fluid suspension system that forces a compressible fluid into the drum with a force sufficient to maintain the medical implant aloft in the drum.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein the compressible fluid suspension system uses an inert gas to maintain the medical implants aloft.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 14, further comprising: periodically activating the compressible fluid suspension system.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~4~~ 5, further comprising:
passing therapeutic through the ~~perforations~~ orifices; and
passing compressible fluid through the ~~perforations~~ orifices.

Claim 19 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A method of claim 5, further for applying a coating to a
medical implant comprising:
providing a pan coater, the pan coater including a drum having at least a first opening a
bottom and a wall;
placing a medical implant in the drum of the pan coater;
rotating the drum about an axis, to tumble the medical implant, the drum containing a
plurality of orifices in the wall;
spraying a therapeutic into the drum to coat the medical implant;
removing the medical implant from the drum; and
recycling therapeutic that did not adhere to the implant during spraying.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): A computer readable medium storing instructions for operating a pan coater for coating a medical implant, the instructions comprising directions for the pan coater to: rotate a drum to tumble a medical implant; spray a first therapeutic into the drum through a spray nozzle while rotating the drum; and stop the drum from rotating.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The computer readable medium of claim 20, storing further directions for the pan coater to: force a compressible fluid into the drum after spraying the first therapeutic into the drum.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The computer readable medium of claim 21, storing further directions for the pan coater to: heat the compressible fluid prior to forcing the compressible fluid into the drum.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The computer readable medium of claim 20 storing further directions for the pan coater to: draw a compressible fluid out of the drum through a compressible fluid exhaust opening.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The computer readable medium of claim 20 storing further directions for the pan coater to: spray a second therapeutic into the drum after a medical implant has been placed into the drum.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A method for applying a coating to a medical implant comprising:

providing a pan coater, the pan coater including a drum rotatable about a longitudinal axis having a wall and a bottom, the wall having a plurality of orifices at least a first opening;

placing a medical implant in the drum of the pan coater;

injecting a compressible fluid into the drum with a force sufficient to maintain the medical implant aloft in the drum to tumble the medical implant;

spraying a therapeutic into the drum to coat the medical implant; and

removing the medical implant from the drum.

Claim 26 (original): The method of claim 25, wherein the compressible fluid is an inert gas.

Claim 27 (original): The method of claim 25, wherein the compressible fluid is also for drying the therapeutic on the medical implant.

Claim 28 (original): The method of claim 25, further comprising: periodically injecting the compressible fluid into the drum.

Claim 29 (new): The method of claim 1 wherein interfacing the therapeutic with the tumbling implant includes tumbling the implant into a vat of therapeutic.